



FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

JANUARY 24, 2022



GRACE MISSION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Compassion and Social Justice Committee is seeking volunteers to serve dinner at Grace Mission on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, beginning February 10.

We need four volunteers to help set-up, serve, and clean up for dinners for families of students in the After School program at Grace.

The time is 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Please contact Carol Weissert at cweissert@fsu.edu if you are interested in helping and which days. First Pres was actively involved in volunteer efforts at Grace Mission prior to COVID 19, and we hope to see many of you who so graciously participated then engaged in this new effort.

First Presbyterian Church

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www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch

Sunday Schedule

9:15 a.m. Adult Church School

Meet and Greet on Zoom & In

Person in the Westminster Room

Program starts at 9:30 a.m.

**9:15 a.m. Nursery open for
infants - two year olds.**

**9:30 a.m. Children's classes
gather for music in room 307.**

**9:45 a.m. Preschool and
Elementary School classes begin
in their respective rooms**

**11:00 a.m. LORD'S DAY WORSHIP
SERVICE**

**Children and vaccinated adults
with masks are welcome in the
Sanctuary. Childcare is available
for children younger than
kindergarten.**

5:00 p.m. Youth Group

In Person and Live-Stream Worship

Visit www.oldfirstchurch.org to
download Sunday's bulletin and
view the service. Services are
recorded and available for later
viewing on YouTube
[@FPCTallahassee](https://www.youtube.com/@FPCTallahassee).

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday



Pastor's Column

By Rev. Margaret Fox

Yesterday's worship service contained an unanticipated "meta moment," when the service accidentally enacted a theme from the sermon. Esther, our reader, having forgotten her print-out of the scriptures, was searching for the book of Nehemiah in the pulpit Bible, handily illustrating a point I was planning to make in my sermon: that Nehemiah is one of those obscure books that's almost impossible to find! Only afterwards did I realize that there was a New Testament connection, too: in handing Esther my print-out of the scriptures, we were inadvertently enacting Luke's story of someone in the synagogue handing Jesus a scroll from which to read. I love those Holy Spirit moments that bring the text alive, and it felt like such a blessing on a day when we were focusing on what it means to be gathered around scripture in the context of worship—what it means to be a people of the book.

There was another connection between text and life, as well: the final line of the Nehemiah passage was an invitation to rejoice and a call to serve—mirroring the blessing and sending with which we end our worship service. This coming Sunday, there will be an opportunity for us to enact this blessing and sending in our life together. The Healing Racism Task Force has invited Ion Sancho, former Supervisor of Elections for Leon County, to talk with our congregation about current voter suppression efforts taking place in the state of Florida. This is a chance for us to learn about what's going on, and how we might work together to support fair elections. We've invited Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, a longtime leader in local voting rights efforts, to join us, and they're eager to partner on a response.

Please see the newsletter for further details, and mark your calendar for this Sunday, January 30 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.



e pluribus unum — out of many, one
the village square



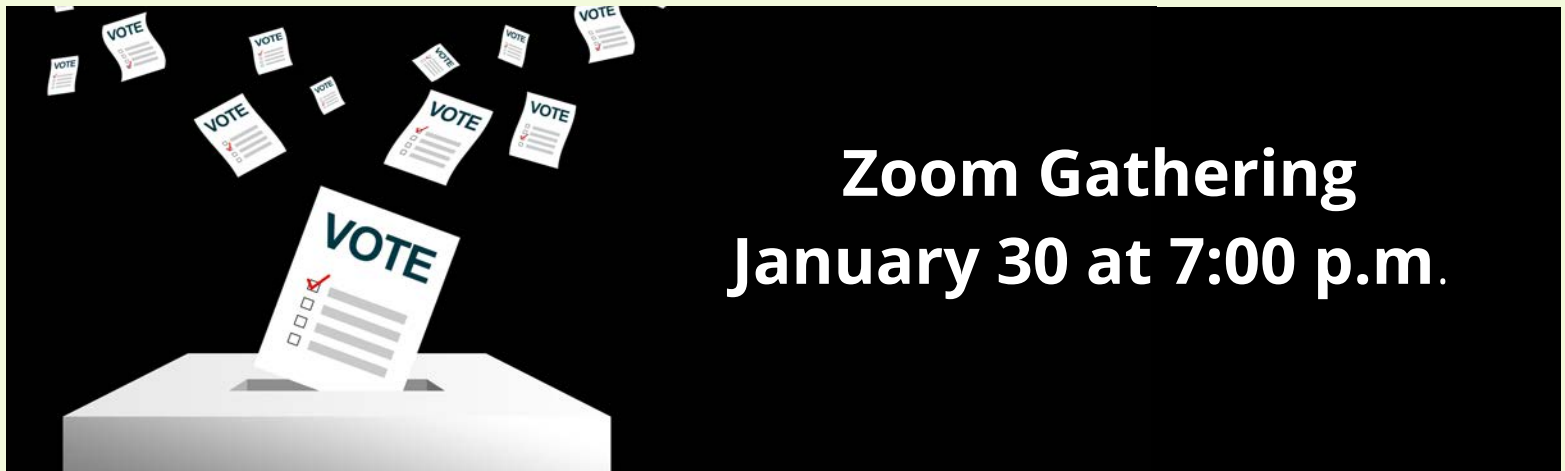
January 28, 2022 @ Noon | God Squad | Via Zoom

SPIRITUAL LESSONS OF A PANDEMIC: CAN THIS TRAUMA POSSIBLY MAKE US BETTER HUMANS?

It's really easy to be in touch with the dark side of human nature that's been so thoroughly highlighted through the pandemic, but is there something else to see? Maybe transcendence, empathy and heroic self-sacrifice? And where there isn't much to look at that's positive, can we turn our trauma into a spiritual evolution - personally or even as a culture? When we've reached peak difficulty (uh, now), time to call in The God Squad.

Join us as we welcome God Squad regulars Father Tim Holeda of St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral, Pastor Joe Davis Jr. of Truth Gatherers Community, and Rabbi Michael Shields of Temple Israel to guide us through this conversation. Pastor Margaret Fox of First Presbyterian Church will join the God Squad Panel for this event.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



We invite and encourage All members of First Presbyterian Church to join a Zoom call Sunday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m. with retired Leon County Supervisor of Elections Ion Sancho to learn about voter suppression and how we as people of faith can and must respond.

Background: Ongoing voter suppression is one of the most destructive and racist movements in our history and it is unfolding just two blocks south of our church. Voter suppression challenges a fundamental right in a democracy. For our faith community, it has implications for all the social justice issues that are a concern to our denomination from hunger to homelessness to climate change.

Sadly, Florida is leading the nation in voter suppression and the Florida Legislature is considering additional actions to make it even more difficult for everybody to vote, but especially for people of color.

Nineteen states have passed 34 bills that suppress voting amongst minorities. In 2021 Florida SB 90 imposed new restrictions on mail voting and drop boxes, made voter registration more difficult and modified rules for observers in ways that could disrupt election administration. These changes will make it more difficult for everyone to vote, but people of color will be especially impacted.

This zoom gathering will help us determine how our congregation can faithfully respond to this injustice and find specific ways each of us can heed the call to love our neighbors at this moment in time. Join us as we listen, learn and reflect on how to put our faith into action.

Our Speaker: Ion Sancho served for 28 years as Supervisor of Elections for Leon County. He is widely admired for his integrity as a voter advocate and elections expert and became nationally known for his role in the Florida presidential election recount of 2000.

Please don't miss this opportunity to learn about the impact of Voter Suppression on us, our community, and our country from one of the nation's most distinguished experts.

Please put the January 30, 7:00 p.m. Zoom Gathering on your calendar.

The zoom link will be sent to the congregation on Saturday, January 29 in the same way the Sunday morning link is distributed. If you don't receive the link, email Christy@oldfirstchurch.org.

take them a meal ministry

Our meal team provides meals for members and their families during times of celebration and challenge. Although the needs are currently few, it is not impossible that needs will arise while we are still minimizing personal contact. There are ways to help each other that do not involve close interaction, including ordering meals to be delivered. We also have a small group of members who are available to assist with shopping or other errands for those who are trying to avoid leaving their homes. If this would be helpful to you please let the Care and Outreach team know by contacting Linda Smith, chair, at 7Yodanana7@gmail.com. Also, this time of lower demand would be an excellent time for you to be sure you can still access the Lotsa Helping Hands website we use to coordinate most meal requests, as well as the "members only" section of the church website.



Visitation Ministry

Our "visiting" ministry has had to adapt to social distancing restrictions, but we are still trying to keep in touch with members who would appreciate extra care, either because they are home bound or because they are recovering from illness or injury. If you are able to keep in touch with members by phone, text, or email, or if you are aware of a member who would appreciate extra contact with our church family, please let the Care and Outreach team know by contacting Linda Smith at 7Yodanana7@gmail.com.

"Hearts Together" Underwear Drive

February 13th

at church if you come for the in-person service or our fabulous Youth Group will host a "drive by/ drop off" collection between 4-5 pm



February is fast approaching as the Care Team is planning our annual Agape Love Fest (*formerly, pre-COVID, a potluck Feast!*) Our theme this year is once again "Hearts Together" and will involve reaching out to our beloved children and our members at Westminster Oaks and other homes with Agape bags and love tokens of our appreciation and care.

For our community, we reached out to Grace Mission who requested men's underwear which is in short supply! More information will be coming, but you can begin shopping for these sizes of Men's Underwear in order of lowest to highest need:

34 waist or Medium

XXL

40 waist or XL

36, 38 waist or Large

2 Bonus items requested:

New/Used Men's jeans same sizes as above

Powdered Gatorade packets or Gatorade or electrolyte/hydration type drinks.

This request was related to many who have been recovering in place from illness recently. (*Water bottles are already available to those who are homeless.*)

Lastly, checks to Grace Mission are always welcome!

The collection will happen on February 13 either at church if you come for the in-person service or our fabulous Youth Group will host a "drive by/ drop off" collection between 4-5 pm



Nursery and Preschool Childcare

Sitters from Twinkle Toes Childcare agency are staffing our nursery.

These sitters are all: background checked, CPR/First Aid trained and vaccinated. Two additional sitters from Twinkle Toes staff the Preschool class.

When we are in-person for church school, 9:15 - Noon, Twinkle Toes sitters will be in the building ready to care for infants through two-years-old in the church nursery. Children aged three - pre-K will be in the preschool class and will be greeted by additional Twinkle Toes sitters.



Spiritual Formation Team Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

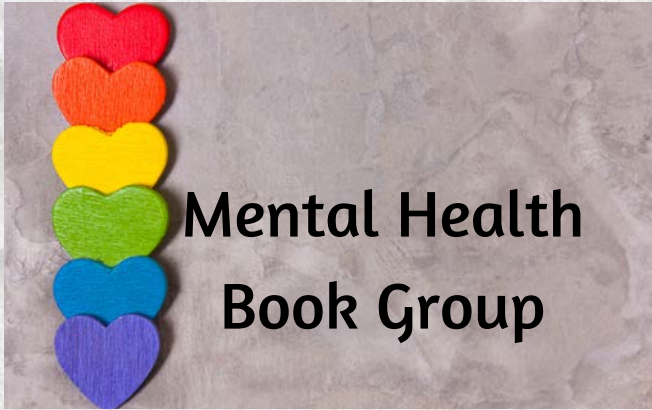
On Zoom at 7 p.m.

The zoom link will be sent to current members of the SFT.

If you would like to join the group who create, plan and support the spiritual nurture of our church family from infancy through adulthood, please contact

christy@oldfirstchurch.org.

We would be excited to welcome you to our team of committed volunteers.



Healing Racism Task Force

Our youth group has been asked to participate in a Youth Mental Health book group on Zoom on Wednesday, March 23 at 7 p.m. Copies of the book have been ordered for each person in our youth group. The book deals with LGBTQIA+ issues and suicide. It is called *The Visitors: A heartwarming tale of friendship, hard-won truths, and the healing power of forgiveness* by Greg Howard. This will be for PCUSA youth in the southeast.

This group of First Presbyterians meets monthly to work on policies/statements, plan events and classes and explore ways to assist our congregation in promoting racial justice in our church, community and country. We suggest books for the monthly Book Group, we also work on liturgy to be used in special services or meetings. If you would like to be part of our task force, please contact Deborah Whisnant or Christy Williams. We currently meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m., but if there is interest, we are willing to rearrange our meeting schedule for more participation.



ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS WESTMINSTER ROOM AND ON ZOOM JANUARY 30, 2021



Meet and greet: Sunday at 9:15 AM
Program starts: Sunday at 9:30 AM

Everyone is welcome to the Westminster Room OR you can connect to the “hybrid” class on Zoom.

This week we continue our DVD study series with Professor Amy-Jill Levine titled, “The Difficult Words of Jesus.” ([trailer](#)). Christy Williams will lead the second of six sessions, “Hate Father and Mother.” We will scrutinize the harsh, troublesome words in [Luke 14:25-33](#)).

All are welcome! Each Zoom meeting opens new opportunities to learn and share — whether you've attended previously or not.

As in worship, for your safety and as a courtesy to others, we ask all who attend in person to wear masks, respect social distance and, if eligible, be fully vaccinated. Our program begins promptly at 9:30 AM and ends by 10:30 AM. After class, those who meet in person can enjoy coffee and fellowship in the courtyard before worship at 11:00 AM.

Be on the lookout for John's Thursday afternoon email with the week's topic, background reading, and Zoom link for connecting online. If you have not been getting the Thursday emails, please contact office@oldfirstchurch.org so we can get you on the list.

FIRST PRESS

The newsletter
of
First Presbyterian
Church

**The newsletter is prepared on Mondays,
including those Mondays that fall on
federal holidays.**

**Please submit items for publication to:
newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org
no later than noon on the Monday of
publication.**



**AT FPC
JANUARY 30, 2022
5-6:30 P.M.**

This Sunday we will continue our series on mental health. As the pandemic drags on and we all constantly have to re-imagine our lives, our hopes for events, our dreams of travel and our ability to be with people, our mental health has taken a hit. During this series we will gain some insights and some tools on how to care for ourselves and our loved ones. We will address and use the words: suicide, suicidal desperation, anxiety, depression, and we will also look at the positive ways we already may do things to be mentally and emotionally healthy.

Last week we focused on how to make our own mental health a priority in our lives. This week, we will be joined (via Zoom) by Brian Kuhn. Brian is the executive director of the Presbyterian Youth Workers Association as well a Licensed Professional Counselor. Brian partners with Soul Shop, the national leader in educating faith communities about suicide and suicidal depression and he offers training for those who work with youth and young adults. He is a wonderful presence and will be very helpful in leading us through some tough conversations about how we might help a friend or loved one.

Old First Church Book Group

JANUARY and FEBRUARY



**On January 27 at 7 p.m.
we will discuss**

Searching for Sunday

by Rachel Held Evans.

An email with questions for reflection went out to those on the book group list at the beginning of the week. This included the zoom link as well. If you did not receive this, please contact Christy ASAP:

**christy@oldfirstchurch.org.
Even if you didn't read the book, or finish it, you are welcome to join our discussion.**

**On February 24 at 7 p.m.
we will discuss**

Anxious People

by Fredrik Bachman



**Church
World
Service**



Give a Church World Service Blanket to Someone in Need

Church World Service (CWS) is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. In partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries, including the U.S., CWS offers opportunities to join a people-to-people network of caring through participation in their Tools of Hope & Blanket Program. Through the generosity of congregations, shelters and vulnerable people around the world are getting supplies like blankets and hygiene kits to keep them safe and healthy. A \$10 blanket (or two for \$20 or five for \$50) is a gift that can make a world of difference in the wake of natural disasters, human calamities and pandemic illness.

These blankets are shipped all over the world, heavier ones for colder climates and lighter weight blankets for warmer zones. They are a tangible representation of love and solace to people in need, and a statement that they are not alone. As a congregation, our heart for mission remains strong. This is one of our opportunities to help make a difference and change lives.

Donations for the Church World Service Blanket Offering are welcomed from those who are able during the entire month of February. Checks may be made payable to First Presbyterian Church noting Blankets in the memo line, or by designating your gift for the Blanket Offering on the Church website's [contribution](#) section. If you have questions, please contact Esther Moring at esthermoring@gmail.com



Sunday Festival Readings

JANUARY 30, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JEREMIAH 1:4-10
PSALM 71:1-6
I CORINTHIANS 13:1-13
LUKE 4:21-30



Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

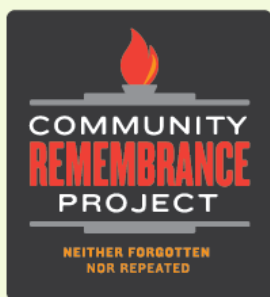
We acknowledge the long history of systemic racism that, through violence, laws, policies, and their implementation, was intended to exclude persons who are not Caucasian from benefits and opportunities - from the first European settlers who considered themselves entitled to land and violently displaced indigenous people from their homes, to the equally long history of slavery which built the wealth of this country, to Jim Crow laws to current instances of police brutality and the overwhelming mass incarceration of people of color.

We declare ourselves utterly opposed to all forms of systemic racism. We are committed to standing with those who find themselves on the receiving end of any form of racism. We will seek out opportunities to oppose all forms of systematic racism and to ensure that black lives matter, as do those of indigenous, Asian, and Latinx people and persons of all colors or countries of origin.

Our faith tells us that we can do no less, if we truly affirm that all human beings are made in god's image.

We dream of a day in which all persons are treated as bearers of that image.





ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE AT LYNCHING MARKER IN CASCADES PARK

On February 29, 2020, the Tallahassee Community Remembrance Project (TCRP), a coalition of 46 partner organizations and faith communities, led a soil collection ceremony at the corner of E. Gaines and S. Meridian Streets to remember the four documented victims of lynching in Leon County: Pierce Taylor, Mick Morris, Ernest Ponder and Richard Hawkins. On July 17, 2021, a historical lynching marker was unveiled and dedicated at the same location with 400 people in attendance. This year, on February 12, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., the TCRP will hold its first annual remembrance at the marker. Dr. Maxine Jones, history professor and women studies director at Florida State University, will speak concerning Leon County's victims. Immediately following that remembrance, FSU history professor Dr. Jennifer Koslow will make a presentation at 3:00 p.m. in the parish hall at St. John's Episcopal Church, 211 N. Monroe Street, concerning six more Leon County men who were taken by law enforcement to Lake City in 1911 but who were removed from the jail under false pretenses and lynched there, in Columbia County. Please enter the parish hall from the Calhoun Street entrance. Both events are free and open to the public.



Dear Friends,
On February 24, 2022,
Greenfaith is inviting people of faith around the world to learn more about how financial industries have authorized and supported the climate's destruction by investing in the fossil fuel industry, and how to hold asset managers and banks accountable.

The event will be entirely on Zoom at a time yet to be determined.

To participate or to learn more about Greenfaith and this campaign, please click here:

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/multi-faith-climate-finance-campaign-launch?source=email>

Thanks.

Pam McVety



DAILY LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY 16-31, 2022

Sunday, January 16

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Gen. 7:1–10, 17–23
Eph. 4:1–16
Mark 3:7–19

Saturday, January 22

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Gen. 12:9–13:1
Heb. 7:18–28
John 4:27–42

Friday, January 28

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Gen. 17:15–27
Heb. 10:11–25
John 6:1–15

Monday, January 17

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Gen. 8:6–22
Heb. 4:14–5:6
John 2:23–3:15

Sunday, January 23

Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Gen. 13:2–18
Gal. 2:1–10
Mark 7:31–37

Saturday, January 29

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Gen. 18:1–16
Heb. 10:26–39
John 6:16–27

Tuesday, January 18

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Gen. 9:1–17
Heb. 5:7–14
John 3:16–21

Monday, January 24

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Gen. 14:(1–7) 8–24
Heb. 8:1–13
John 4:43–54

Sunday, January 30

Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
Gen. 18:16–33
Gal. 5:13–25
Mark 8:22–30

Wednesday, January 19

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Gen. 9:18–29
Heb. 6:1–12
John 3:22–36

Tuesday, January 25

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Gen. 15:1–11, 17–21
Heb. 9:1–14
John 5:1–18

Monday, January 31

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
Gen. 19:1–17 (18–23) 24–29
Heb. 11:1–12
John 6:27–40

Thursday, January 20

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Gen. 11:1–9
Heb. 6:13–20
John 4:1–15

Wednesday, January 26

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Gen. 16:1–14
Heb. 9:15–28
John 5:19–29

Friday, January 21

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Gen. 11:27–12:8
Heb. 7:1–17
John 4:16–26

Thursday, January 27

Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Gen. 16:15–17:14
Heb. 10:1–10
John 5:30–47